

Energy & Technology Hearing March 8, 2022

Leroy E. Temple, Ph.D.

I have served on the Board of Nutmeg TV as president since 1991 and have, thus, participated in both the initial strong support for Community Access TV in Connecticut and the current evident decline in that support. As indicated in other communication, a variety of factors have contributed to this decline in support, not least, the regulatory supervision of the cable and television streaming industry in Connecticut. While I appreciate that traditional cable television is on the decline, resulting in the diminishment of paying CATV subscribers, virtually all of us are still receiving our televised entertainment etc. over wires connected to our homes provided by the very same "Cable TV" providers that "subscribers" paid for their cable TV services but now only pay for "internet" access. Up until 2007, regulation required that CATV providers negotiate their Connecticut franchise renewal on a periodic basis, including the nature and extent of their support for Public Access. It appears that beginning in 2007 Connecticut abdicated it's responsibility for regulation of the industry resulting in less and less support for Community Access.

I've been involved long enough to remember the very good working relationship between the CATV providers and Public Access stations like Nutmeg TV. Their representatives attended our board meetings and express a genuine concern for providing excellent Public Access facilities and services within their franchise areas. This apparently no longer exists.

During my time as Director of Media Services at Central Connecticut State University (1985-2006), we provided programing to Nutmeg TV and worked with them in supporting their education channel. Central worked closely with Comcast when they wired the entire campus, including classrooms and offices, to provide CATV to the dorms, thus capturing the resident students as cable customers.

Today, we watch TV on our phones, tablets computers and TVs, mostly provided by WIFI which comes to us primarily thanks to the traditional CATV provides. Even "streaming" content provided by Public Access via YouTube or their web sites is available through internet access. Public Access is an essential forum making available public information not otherwise available to the community it serves. The providers of internet in Connecticut need to be regulated to support this.

Thank You very much for your attention.

Most Sincerely,

Leroy E. Temple, Ph. D.

President, Nutmeg TV